GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6828
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000
RETENTION OF LOBBYISTS
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are not likely to renew the contract of the U.S. lobbyists hired by the Indian Government;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the total amount incurred by the Government on the lobbyists during 1998-99?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) The position regarding lobbying contracts is kept under constant review, keeping in mind performance and requirements. The contract of M/s APCO Associates expired in March 2000. It has been decided not to renew this contract . This is not a reflection on the performance of the firm. It is is a reflection of the fact that the fixed duration contract was for specific purposes which have been met. The contract of the other lobbying firm M/s Verner Liipfert is valid till December 2000. The question of renewal of the contract may be considered closer to that time on the basis of a detailed assessment of performance and/or requirements, in consultation with Embassy o India, Washington.

(c) Expenditure incurred by Government of India on lobbyists during 1998-99 was US $ 9,75,000/-.